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GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE, 1936



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BY R. H. RITCHIE, ENNISKILLEN



GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE, 1936

Although the countryside is looking fresh and green, the delayed arrival of real summer weather is reflected in the backward state of pastures and crops. Pastures, in particular, are causing stock owners some anxiety, and plenty of rain followed by warmer temperatures than have been experienced up to the present would effect a much needed improvement. The position in regard to the hay crop also is none too promising. Growth is very backward on account of the continued drought and low temperatures prevailing during the past two months, and, since surplus stocks of hay of the 1935 crop are much smaller than usual, the fear that there may be a general shortage of fodder next winter is gaining ground as the present climatic conditions continue. In regard to the other crops, however, a rather more optimistic note may be sounded, although here again rain and heat would effect a marked all-round improvement.

The long spell of good open weather has, however, been particularly favourable for the cultivation of crops and has permitted annual outdoor events, such as those conducted by the various agricultural societies, to be staged under ideal conditions. These shows continue to grow in public favour from year to year, and to facilitate those interested a further list of forthcoming fixtures is printed on page 27.

Owing to the frosts and cold winds, the prospects for this year's fruit crop in Northern Ireland are not bright. Plums and damsons appear to be most seriously affected, whilst gooseberries and blackcurrants also are stated to be below the average. Raspberries promise well in most places, and strawberries are in fair condition at the moment. In regard to apples, it is considered that fair to average crops may be harvested.

In next month's issue a fuller statement will be given as to the latest position of all fruits in Northern Ireland.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS AT THE 1ST JUNE, 1936.

THE COUNTRYSIDE.

Throughout the month of May the weather was, in the main, similar to that of the preceding month. Fine and dry although rather cold conditions for the time of the year continued to favour the progress of outdoor work, and although these conditions were not conducive to rapid growth, the crops as a rule have made fair progress.

There were a few days when warm and summer-like weather was experienced, but, generally, northerly and easterly winds made day temperatures rather low for the season, and ground frosts also were fairly frequent at night time. Some hail also fell during the last few days of the month. The damage done to growing crops from these conditions was, however, of little account. The absence of rain in any appreciable quantity was also noteworthy, and although some showers fell at intervals throughout May, they were barely sufficient to effect a marked improvement in pastures and crops, which are generally a little backward from the long spell of drought. The heavy rainfall about the 24th of the month did some good, as also did the showers during the last week of May.

With the continuance of open weather and good soil conditions, the planting and cultivation of the crops were carried out without interruption, and, with the exception of the sowing of turnips, which is nearing completion, seasonal outdoor work has almost ended. It is estimated that the total area under crops this year will show little change from last year's figure. The area under wheat is smaller on account of the adverse ground conditions during the greater part of the autumn and winter, and there has been a tendency to increase the area under potatoes in some districts, but in respect of other crops there will be little or no change in the area of each grown.

The cold winds and the night frosts retarded the normal growth of pastures, and they were rather backward until the arrival of some rain at the end of May. Pastures on light soil especially have suffered from the drought and cold weather. On this account there was a further drain on supplies of hay and roots during May, and supplies of home-grown foodstuffs are now almost exhausted on most farms. The feeding of purchased concentrated foodstuffs to dairy stock and fattening cattle has been continued during the month, and the demand for them continues steady at firm prices. Store cattle, except those which continued to receive hand feeding, are generally in a backward condition for the time of the year. The backward condition of pastures has also been responsible for the rather slower growth made by lambs, even though the hand feeding of ewes was carried

out on a larger scale than usual. It is thought that with the prolongation of cold weather, pasture fed beef cattle will be a month later this season in reaching the finishing stages. The bill of health in regard to live stock generally is satisfactory, but some cases of red water in cattle are reported from certain districts.

THE CROPS.

WHEAT.—Despite the fact that there has been a larger area than usual sown with spring varieties of wheat, the total area under wheat will be smaller than last season, as it was impossible in many cases to get winter varieties sown owing to unsuitable ground conditions. Variable accounts are to hand regarding the progress of the growing crops. While there are some very poor fields of wheat, both of winter and spring varieties, there are many instances where the prospects of obtaining good crops are excellent. Growth was slow during May, but the crops, on the whole, made fair progress, especially those growing on the heavier soils.

HAY.—The absence of rain and heat is causing some uneasiness in regard to this crop, and the prospects of obtaining average yields of hay, especially on the lighter soils, are not promising.

As a result of the continued backwardness of pastures, fodder remains in good steady demand for feeding to live stock, and supplies on most farms have been reduced to a very low level. Rather smaller supplies of fair to good quality hay were offered at markets last month and average prices were 2/- cheaper than in April at 65/- per ton for first and second years (upland) hay, and 50/- per ton for meadow hay.

OATS.—The dry weather and good soil conditions allowed this crop to be sown without difficulty and in good time this season. Growth has been slow, however, especially on light soils, but, as a general rule, the brairds have made fairly good progress. In some fields they are rather patchy. Some crops have been attacked by the leather jacket grub and wireworm. Moister and warmer weather would effect a marked improvement.

Rapidly decreasing supplies of last year's crop of white oats were marketed during May, and prices were similar to those ruling in April at 5/6 per cwt. In May, 1935, supplies were slightly smaller than for last month and prices 4d. dearer at 5/10 per cwt.

BARLEY.—In most districts where this crop is grown there has been a slightly larger area sown than a year ago. The brairds have made fairly good growth and are in a healthy condition, but the recent cold winds and ground frosts have retarded growth in some cases. The arrival of rain and heat would be very welcome for this crop also.

FLAX.—It is now considered that the area sown with flaxseed this season will be smaller than that of a year ago, though not appreciably

so. Growth has been slow on account of the east winds and frosts, which have done some slight damage, but, on the whole, the brairds are in a fairly satisfactory state. In several parts of the country the flax flea beetle has been active.

Estimates of the amount of last year's crops still on farms indicate that in most areas the entire crops have been disposed of. In a few districts about 10 per cent. still remains on hands.

Supplies of flax at markets last month were very small compared with April, and prices cheapened further from $7/8$ to $7/2\frac{1}{2}$ per stone. The range of prices at markets during May was from 5/- to 9/- per stone. Fair supplies marketed during the week ended 6th June averaged $6/9\frac{1}{4}$ per stone.

POTATOES.—Good progress was made with the planting of main crop varieties during the favourable conditions prevailing during May. In many districts the area planted with potatoes is much the same as a year ago, whilst in several instances there has been a larger area planted this year, and it is, therefore, expected that the total area this season will show a slight increase. In exposed districts the development of the plants of the early varieties has been rather slow, and damage has been caused by frosts. Since the showers at the end of the month, the crops have made good progress and are in a very promising state, but it is thought that many crops of "new" potatoes will be marketed later than usual this year. Reports indicate that, on the whole, the potato crop has withstood the dry and cool conditions better than the other growing crops.

Small supplies of last year's crop on farms have kept reasonably well and are still in good marketable condition. The cold weather probably accounted for the fact that sprouting was less prevalent than usual.

There was an appreciable decline in supplies of potatoes marketed for local consumption in May compared with April, and prices fell steadily during the month, as the following figures show :—

Week ended	Average prices per cwt.		
	Main Crop, all classes.	Arran Victory.	Kerr's Pink.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
2nd May, 1936 ..	4 1	4 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
9th " " ..	3 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
16th " " ..	3 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 10
23rd " " ..	3 5	3 5	3 4
30th " " ..	3 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 2	2 11 $\frac{1}{4}$
6th June, " ..	2 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 8 $\frac{1}{2}$

During the last two weeks shown, the prices were below those ruling at the corresponding periods of 1935.

Shipments of potatoes from Northern Ireland ports to Great Britain reached high levels at the end of April, then dropped sharply during the first fortnight of last month, and for the last three weeks of May the weekly shipments were steady, although smaller than for the corresponding weeks of last year. The following were the figures :—

Week ended		Corresponding week, 1935.	
	Tons.		Tons.
April 25th	8,827		3,865
May 2nd	13,155		5,437
„ 9th	6,890		3,252
„ 16th	3,572		4,550
„ 23rd	3,666		5,105
„ 30th	3,675		5,168

The prices per ton paid by shipping merchants to growers fell steadily during May, and for the week ended 6th June they ranged as follows :—

	Bagged.	Loose.
Up-to-Date (Red Soil) ..	£2 5 0 to £3 2 6	£2 10 0 to £2 15 0
Arran Consul	£2 10 0 to £3 0 0	£2 0 0 to £2 15 0
Arran Victory	£2 0 0 to £3 0 0	£2 0 0 to £2 5 0
Kerr's Pink	£2 0 0 to £2 15 0	£2 0 0 to £2 5 0

Compared with the prices for the corresponding week of last year the above figures are approximately 15/- per ton lower.

MANGELS.—The sowing of mangels was almost completed during the fine open weather and excellent soil conditions prevailing during the past month. This crop made excellent progress despite the chilly weather, and the brairds are in a very promising state. Rain would, however, effect an all-round improvement.

TURNIPS.—Many farmers took advantage of the favourable weather and soil conditions to sow earlier than usual this year. Brairding has been slow and rain is badly needed for this crop. There have been complaints from several areas of the prevalence of turnip “fly,” but in only a few instances have the attacks been of a severe nature.

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE.—As a general rule store cattle are in a backward condition for the time of the year. On account of the poorness of pastures, many farmers continued to hand feed their stock, but on account of the shortage of hay on many farms this practice was restricted throughout the country. It is estimated that the number of store cattle on farms is smaller than usual at this time of the year, and this is confirmed by the fact that prices for all descriptions of store cattle during May recorded a further advance on the month. Dairy cattle are in fair condition and good health, and the milk yield has shown a slight seasonal advance which is due more to hand feeding than to the improvement in pasture lands. Calving has been normal.

Supplies of store cattle at fairs were smaller and prices were dearer. Beef cattle also were meeting with a steady demand at firmer rates, whilst the trade for dairy stock showed little change on the month.

SHEEP.—The flocks are in fair condition and in good health. The cold weather and the shortage of grass have kept sheep in a rather backward state for the time of the year, and lambs especially have made a slow thrive. Lambing, which is now practically finished, has been less successful than last year and it is also stated that losses at birth have been greater during the harsh weather conditions prevailing. Large increased supplies at markets and fairs were a medium trade. The best demand ruled for hoggets and fat lambs.

PIGS.—Slightly increased supplies of young pigs were on offer at fairs during May, when a good steady demand absorbed the bulk of the offerings at firmer rates. The demand for the small supplies of breeding sows was fair. Prices varied according to quality, which in some cases was not of a high standard. First litter sows were quoted at from £6 to £10 each, and second and third litters from about £7 10s. to £12 each.

HORSES.—The demand for horses of the draught type continued steady, and prices were unchanged at about £50 each. Good half-bred horses for military purposes and hunting were also in good request and selling at from about £30 to £65 each. With tillage operations practically completed, the position in regard to farm horses eased slightly, but prices recorded no appreciable reductions. First class farm animals were quoted at from £35 to £50 each, and others at around £25 each.

MILK.—Slightly increased supplies were available for creameries last month at prices ranging from 3½d. to 5d. per gallon for milk delivered, the separated milk being returned to the farmer.

The average price paid during the month of April for milk produced in Northern Ireland and delivered to creameries for manufacturing purposes was 4.19d. per gallon, and the Ministry has made equalisation

payments at .81d. per gallon in order to bring the average price in respect of this month to 5d. per gallon, as provided by the Milk and Milk Products Act (Northern Ireland), 1934.

It should be noted that, under the regulations, creameries are required to distribute the equalisation payments in accordance with the butter-fat content of the milk received from each supplier. Farmers should, therefore, bear in mind that the actual payments made to them, being calculated on a butter-fat basis, may be at a rate per gallon which may vary below or above this average figure.

THE MARKETS DURING MAY.

In the vegetable markets last month there was a general scarcity of home-grown vegetables, and savoys and carrots disappeared from the markets. Pamphrey was the only vegetable in larger supply than in April, all the other vegetables being rather less plentiful. With the exception of leeks, which cheapened by $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to $4\frac{1}{4}$ d. per bunch, and parsley, which was $9\frac{1}{2}$ d. cheaper at $1\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}$ per bunch, price movements were negligible. Pamphrey rose by 1d. to $1\frac{1}{7}$ per dozen, cauliflowers by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $1\frac{1}{9}\frac{1}{4}$ per dozen, and parsnips were unchanged at $6\frac{1}{11}$ per cwt. Garden turnips also were quoted at late rates at from 4/- to 6/- per cwt. Farmers' butter recorded a slight reduction in supply compared with a month ago, and prices were a little cheaper, the print variety being 1d. cheaper at $1\frac{1}{1}\frac{3}{4}$ per lb. and lump butter easing in price by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $11\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. There was a marked decline in supplies of hen eggs during May, while duck eggs also were less plentiful. Hen eggs improved in price by 1d. to 6d. per lb., and duck eggs by 3d. to $7\frac{1}{4}$ per 120. Poultry were less numerous than in April, and whilst hens were unchanged in price at $1\frac{1}{9}$ each, chickens were $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. cheaper at $2\frac{1}{8}$ each, and ducks 2d. cheaper at $1\frac{1}{11}$ each. Small supplies of ducklings came on the markets towards the end of May, and prices for these ranged from $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ and averaged $\frac{2}{9}$ each. At the opening wool markets small supplies were selling at higher prices than ruled in recent years at 6d. per lb. for long unwashed wool and 5d. per lb. for mountain unwashed wool.

THE COST OF LIVING INDEX FIGURE.

The cost of living index figure at 1st May, 1936, was 44, or the same as that for the previous month. The figure at 1st May, 1935, was 37.

MARKETING SCHEMES.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING (PIG INDUSTRY) ACT (N.I.), 1934.

PIG PRICES FOR JUNE, 1936.

The Pig Industry Council for Northern Ireland have announced the following prices for dead pigs for sale by producers to curers in Northern Ireland in June, 1936 :—

PRICES PER DEAD CWT.

The prices per dead cwt. for dead pigs sold by producers to curers in Northern Ireland in June, 1936, are as follows :—

Weight Class (Dead Weight).	Grade A.	Grade B.	Grade C.	U.L. or U.F.
I. c.1.1.14 to c.1.2.14 ..	60/-	57/-	54/-	51/-
II. c.1.2.15 to c.1.3.14 ..	60/-	57/-	54/-	51/-
III. c.1.3.15 to c.2.0.0 ..	57/-	54/-	51/-	48/-
IV. c.2.0.1 to c.2.0.14 ..	51/-	48/-	45/-	42/-

U.L.=Under Grade A measurements.

U.F.=Over Grade C. measurements.

The price for partly black pigs between c.1.1.14 and c.2.0.14 is 5/- per cwt. below the relevant grade price.

Authorised cuts :—

- (a) Broken ham (dry, shank and/or shell bone break)—5 per cent of the gross value of the carcase.
- (b) Broken ham (wet break)—12½ per cent of the gross value of the carcase.
- (c) Shoulder-stuck carcase—3/- per shoulder affected.

The gross value of a carcase is the product of the dead weight and the relevant grade or other price per cwt.

Where portion of a pig carcase weighing between c.1.1.14 and c.2.0.14 is condemned and the existence of disease could not reasonably have been known to the producer at the time of slaughter the appropriate grade price shall apply. If the carcase is wholly condemned on account of disease, the existence of which could not reasonably have been known to the producer at the time of slaughter, the relevant Grade B price shall apply.

The foregoing prices do not apply in the case of (a) wholly black pigs, boars, rigs or stags, sucked sows, and pig carcasses weighing under c.1.1.14 or over c.2.0.14 and (b) pigs visibly diagnosable as diseased

before slaughter and subsequently condemned; emaciated or screw pigs; smelling pig carcasses with definite indications of putrefaction and pig carcasses badly abused or damaged before being handed over by the producer to the curer.

PRICES FOR WILTSHIRE PIGS SOLD ON DIRECT CONTRACT.

In the case of pigs sold alive under direct contract to Wiltshire curers the prices per dead cwt. payable for graded pigs delivered in respect of the month of June are as follows:—

Weight Class (Dead Weight).	Grade 1.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.
Under c.1.0.14	54/-	54/-	54/-
c.1.0.14 to c.1.2.7	66/-	62/-	58/-
c.1.2.8 to c.1.2.10	63/-	59/-	55/-
c.1.2.11 to c.1.2.14	61/-	57/-	53/-
Over c.1.2.14	58/-	54/-	50/-

PRICES FOR LIVE PIGS SOLD TO THE PIGS MARKETING BOARD.

The following prices per live cwt. will be paid for live pigs by the Pigs Marketing Board on and from June 1, 1936, until further notice:—

Weight Class (Live Weight).	Grade I.	Grade II.	Grade III.	Unsuitable.
c.1.2.0 to c.1.3.14	50/-	47/6	45/-	38/6
c.1.3.15 to c.2.0.0	46/-	43/6	—	38/6
c.2.0.1 to c.2.1.14	43/6	41/-	—	38/6
c.2.1.15 to c.2.2.7	41/-	38/6	—	35/6
c.2.2.8 to c.2.2.21	37/6	35/-	—	31/6

(The standard price, exclusive of bonus, for bacon pigs sold by contract in Great Britain during June is 11/- per score dead weight, equivalent to 62/- per cwt.).

These prices do not apply to live pigs outside the above weights, live pigs intended for breeding, live boars, live sucked sows, rigs or stags, injured or diseased pigs, live in-pig gilts, or live pigs sold (on

contract registered with the Pig Industry Council) to curers in Northern Ireland. All other live pigs inside these weights can be sold only to the Board.

AUTHORISED DEDUCTIONS.

Every pig (dead or alive) sold to a curer or to the Pigs Marketing Board is subject to a contribution at present amounting to 1/-.

In addition to this amount, a deduction not exceeding 6d. per pig may be made in the case of sales to curers to cover insurance, so that the producer will not suffer financial loss if the carcase is condemned as unfit for human consumption.

In the case of pigs sold to the Board, there is a deduction of 2/6 per pig for marketing charges.

COST OF STANDARD PIG RATION.

The average retail cash price per cwt. of the standard ration as calculated by the Ministry for the sixteen weeks' period ended 23rd May, was 7/0½. This price was used, together with the realised prices of bacon and hams and of fresh meats over a set period, to determine the standard price of pigs for June.

The ration upon which the feeding cost is based is as follows:—

Barley Meal	30%
Maize Meal	40%
Pollards (White)	20%
Extracted Soya Bean Meal	5%
Meat and Bone Meal (60% Protein)	5%

GRADING STATISTICS.

Table showing the percentages of pig carcasses falling within the weight and grade classes indicated, during April, 1936.

GRADE A.				GRADE B.				GRADE C.				TOTAL.
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
18.75	14.11	1.67	.30	15.32	16.40	2.45	.64	5.44	7.96	.84	.17	84.05
UNGRADED CARCASSES.												
Under Grade A measure- ments. U.L.	Over Grade C measure- ments. U.F.	Wholly condemned. U.	Wholly black injured or damaged. U.	Overweights Underweights boars, sows, etc. X.	Partly black. Y.							
—	2.94	.06	.69	12.25	.01							15.95
TOTAL												100%

The above figures have been calculated from the purchase and grading statements which the curers furnish to the Ministry. There

was a further seasonal increase in the volume of trade during April. The average price paid for each carcase, less deduction for levy and contribution charges, was £4 9s. od., an advance of 7d. on the March price. The average price per cwt. was £2 15s. 3d., which was 4d. firmer than the amended figure for the previous month. The average weight showed a further reduction of 1 lb. at c.1.2.12.

The following table gives the result of an analysis of the purchase and grading statements furnished by Wiltshire bacon curers in respect of live pigs delivered on direct contract by producers during the month of April, 1936.

Weight Class.	Grade 1 %	Grade 2 %	Grade 3 %	Unsuitable %	Total %
Under c.1.0.14	.37	.73	.23	—	1.33
c.1.0.14 to c.1.2.7	37.50	42.15	15.59	.03	95.27
c.1.2.8 to c.1.2.10	.30	.60	.30	—	1.20
c.1.2.11 to c.1.2.14	.33	.73	.44	—	1.50
Over c.1.2.14	.10	.37	.23	—	.70
Total	38.60	44.58	16.79	.03	100

The average price per cwt. in respect of these deliveries works out at 59/7 after making allowance for levy deductions. The average weight works out at c.1.1.16 per pig, the net average price per pig being £4 3s. 4d.

THE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING (REMOVAL OF PIGS) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1934.

It is prescribed by the above Regulations that any person who removes pigs from Northern Ireland must be authorised by the Ministry and hold either a quota certificate or pig export permit. In consequence of infringements of the Regulations in question it was necessary for the Ministry to institute legal proceedings recently. The first case of this kind was heard at Belfast on Monday, 8th June, and the defendant was convicted and fined £20 or three months' imprisonment. A further case was heard at Moy Petty Sessions on Wednesday, 10th June, and a fine of £5 with £1 costs was imposed.

WHEAT ACT, 1932.

WHY FARMERS SHOULD SELL ALL THEIR MILLABLE WHEAT.

It is a common practice in some parts of Northern Ireland for farmers to take wheat which they have grown to a mill to be ground into meal, which they then take home again. The miller retains a part of the meal, or is paid in cash, as recompense for his work in grinding. The wheat is not sold but remains the grower's property throughout.

If farmers deal in this way with wheat which is millable according to the terms of the Wheat Act, they are losing the deficiency payments which they could obtain under the Act. The payments made to growers by the Wheat Commission were about 4/6 per cwt. in 1933, 4/10 in 1934, and 3/10 in 1935. Deficiency payments are made on wheat certificates, which can only be issued on a definite sale of home-grown millable wheat; and there must be no arrangement for any of the wheat to be re-delivered to the grower. Every grower is therefore advised to sell outright all millable wheat of his own growing and to apply to an authorised merchant for a wheat certificate. He can obtain meal which he requires by buying it separately from a miller.

If any further information or explanation is required on the subject, application can be made to the Ministry of Agriculture, Stormont, Belfast, or direct to the Wheat Commission, 10, Smith Square, London, S.W.1.

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS ACT (N.I.), 1934.

PRICE OF MILK IN ONE-THIRD PINT BOTTLES.

The Joint Milk Council for Northern Ireland by a Determination, dated 25th May, 1936, has fixed the following prices for milk of Grade B and milk of Grade C respectively, when sold by retail in bottles containing not more than one-third of a pint :—

Milk of Grade B : *Not less than* 1/10 per gallon.

Milk of Grade C : *Not less than* 1/8 per gallon.

These prices will have effect until 31st August, 1936, in those areas in Northern Ireland in respect of which 1/10 per gallon and 1/8 per gallon have until the coming into operation of the new Determination been the respective prices at which milk of Grade B and milk of Grade C may be sold by retail.

The substitution of minimum prices for standard prices in the case of milk sold in bottles in quantities of not more than one-third of a

pint will enable such milk to be sold at the rate of one penny for each one-third pint bottle. If the standard prices were to be adhered to a fraction of a penny exceeding three farthings would have to be charged for each bottle, and this of course would be impracticable.

The Council hopes that this alteration in the price will have the effect of encouraging the sale of milk in one-third pint bottles.

THE CATTLE INDUSTRY (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) ACTS, 1934 AND 1935.

According to the latest returns received from the Cattle Committee the total of payments made to Northern Ireland owners up to, and including 30th May last, amounted to £447,102, and the total number of animals involved 213,057. The average payment made per head of cattle was therefore £2 2s. od.

For the week ended 30th May last payments made to Northern Ireland owners were in respect of 1,778 animals, including 1,305 steers, 414 heifers and 59 cow-heifers. The total weight of these cattle was 14,066 cwt. and their total realised value was £23,662. The average weight of each beast for the week in question was 7cwt. 3qrs. and 18lbs., the average price per head £13 6s., and per cwt. 33/8. The average payment made to each owner in respect of subsidy was £1 19s. 7d.

LAND IMPROVEMENT.

The Ministry has decided that applications for financial assistance from farmers for the improvement of agricultural holdings, for drainage of land, improvement of ditches and watercourses, stubbing of whins and other approved reclamation work, will now be considered by the Ministry in cases where the valuations of the holdings concerned do not exceed £75. The previous valuation restriction was £60.

Full particulars and forms of application may be obtained from the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Stormont, Belfast.

NOTES AND MEMORANDA.

EGG MARKETING CONTROL IN GERMANY.*

Like other branches of agricultural marketing egg marketing in Germany has undergone a thorough re-organisation during the past three years. Since February, 1934, supplies of eggs have been subjected to regulation under a number of Orders of the Central Union of the German Egg Industry. The latest development in this direction has been to strengthen the control of the Central Union over the disposal of egg supplies.

Firstly, the establishment, extension, re-establishment and transfer of undertakings in the egg trade are made subject to approval. This will make it possible to exercise control in those areas where there is pronounced over-crowding in the trade.

A further order gives to the Central Union wider jurisdiction over the disposition of egg supplies. Up to now regulation was restricted to large inter-regional sales (over 5,000 weekly) while trading within the boundaries of the egg trade associations was free. Under the new order, the Central Union can direct the disposal of egg supplies within those areas in order to ensure a more even distribution. The regulation of egg marketing will now be centralised in the organisation of the Central Union. The present regulations are confined to the trade. Whether control over the disposal of producers' supplies will be introduced later on remains to be seen.

A third order reduces the wholesaler's contribution to the Central Union under the freight equalisation system from 0.2 pfg. per egg to 0.08 pfg. (0.04d. to 0.016d.). The previous contribution is considered to have been much too high in view of the narrow wholesale margin of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ pfg. (0.3d.) per egg, which had to be split up between two or three parties.

A further order provides that firms purchasing eggs on a wholesale scale must pay a tax of 6 pfg. (1.2d.) per 100 eggs. This levy will provide the necessary funds for financing the Central Union. The tax will now fall on the wholesale distributors instead of, as hitherto, on the wholesaler dealers.

The egg supply situation has become more normal during recent months, and retail maximum prices are now being more effectively maintained. The credit of satisfying the surprisingly high Easter demand is in a large measure due to the action of the Central Union, who dispensed with the freight equalisation contribution for the time being, although freight supplements were paid in order to encourage the sending of supplies to outlying consuming districts.

It appears that the high level of demand for eggs reached at the time of the meat and fats shortage, has been generally maintained, although

*Market Supply Committee Note.

the shortage of the articles mentioned has to a large extent disappeared. As there is no evidence of an increasing tendency in egg production (the last census showed a slight reduction in the hen population) the present increased demand indicates anticipation of the future position. In previous years, at this period, large quantities were put into cold storage to meet the winter demand. This year only small quantities are available from home produced supplies for putting into cold storage, so that supplies for this purpose are more or less restricted to imported eggs. In any case, still larger quantities can be imported under the present trade agreements.

EGG MARKETING CONTROL IN LATVIA.*

The condition of agriculture in Latvia may not seem on the surface to have any particular interest for Northern Ireland farmers. Agriculture in Latvia has, however, this in common with agriculture in this country, that Latvia is a country of small-holders producing more than can be consumed at home; thus like Denmark and Northern Ireland Latvian farmers have to face the problem of how best to find markets at highest prices for their agricultural exports.

The Latvian Minister of Agriculture emphasised the importance of the egg export trade in a recent speech, in which he said that by regulating the poultry market they were now able to cover their own requirements, while previously some 15 million eggs had to be imported annually. Moreover, during the first three months of the present year, 3.5 million eggs had been exported and it was hoped that by the end of the year as many will have been exported as were previously imported. This branch of production was of great economic importance. Cartage and other similar work gave the farmers an income of approximately 4 million lats (about £266,000), whereas poultry breeding brought them an income of 16 million lats (about £1,066,000).

*Market Supply Committee Note.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

SEASONAL FARM NOTES

THE LAND.

WEEDS—Work on the farm at this time will be mainly concerned with the suppression of weeds in both tillage and pasture crops. The slack period, which on most farms intervenes after seed sowing has been completed and before hay harvesting commences, affords a convenient opportunity for destroying weeds at a time when destructive measures are most effective. Weeds reduce crop yields, depreciate the quality and value of crops and add to the cost of production. The timely destruction of weeds is, therefore, a duty which no farmer can afford to neglect. Moreover, under the Weeds Act it is an offence to allow weeds such as thistle, dock, ragwort ("ragweed" or "henweed") and ox-eye or "dog" daisy to grow until after the seeding stage has been reached.

Weeds in potatoes can be kept in check by frequent hoeing and moulding of the crop, until the haulms or "tops" cover the ground. These operations, besides aiding in keeping the land free from weeds, are also beneficial in promoting the growth of the crop.

Thistles and docks growing in fields of oats, barley and flax should be pulled or spudded out before the growth of the crop is too far advanced for such work. The destruction of these weeds now saves considerable time and inconvenience at harvest.

Where crops of oats and flax are infested with charlock or "prishagh," there is yet time to spray the crop with a solution of copper sulphate to destroy the weed. No time should be lost, however, in applying the spray, as after the weed has reached the flowering stage spraying is useless in preventing seeding. The solution is made up by dissolving 12 lb. copper sulphate in 40 gallons of water for oats, and 10 lb. copper sulphate in 40 gallons of water for flax. From 60 to 80 gallons of either solution is sufficient for one statute acre. Full details of the method of destroying charlock by spraying are given in Leaflet No. 38.

Weeds growing on pasture land, as well as in waste corners and ditch backs, should be destroyed reasonably early in the season, and a second cutting carried out later, if at all possible. Frequent cutting of weeds during the growing season, as well as preventing seeding, weakens the plants and greatly reduces their number in succeeding years. The destruction of weeds growing in waste places, stackyards, ditch backs, etc., is particularly important in any campaign to rid a farm of weeds, as such places are sources of re-infestation if the weeds growing in them are left unmolested.

POTATOES.—Preparations should be made in good time for the spraying of the potato crop, so that this work may be carried out before the disease appears. As spraying is a preventive of blight, not a remedy, it is essential to apply the first spraying before any signs of disease are apparent on the foliage of the crop. It is, therefore, a wise precaution to obtain supplies of spraying materials, such as copper sulphate ("bluestone") and washing soda, early in the season, so that there may be no delay in spraying the crop when the time for application arrives. In normal seasons the first spraying should be carried out not later than the first week in July, and the second and third applications given at fortnightly intervals afterwards. Full particulars regarding the preparation of the spraying mixtures are given in Leaflet No. 50.

The need for spraying early varieties, particularly those from which seed is to be saved, should not be overlooked. Spraying not only aids in obtaining greater yields, but also decreases the proportion of diseased tubers, and the outlay involved in carrying out the work will be well repaid by the increased value of the crop.

Potato-growers who intend having their crops inspected for the Ministry's Purity Certificate should make application to the Ministry, or to the local Potato Inspector, before the end of June. Where, on inspection, a crop is found to be reasonably healthy and free from "rogues," a certificate will be issued, the possession of which is of distinct advantage, should the produce be sold for seed purposes. Lists of growers of crops which have been certified will be published by the Ministry in due course.

Crops grown from selected stocks of potatoes should be specially examined now and any plants showing signs of diseases, such as leaf roll and mosaic, removed. The presence of these diseases in growing crops can be detected most readily when the plants are comparatively young. Leaf roll can be easily recognised, as the plants have a stunted appearance, the margins of the lower leaves roll inwards, the tips of the leaflets turn brown and the leaflets on the lower leaves become thickened and brittle, and make a peculiar rattle when moved. Rolling of the top leaves on a plant is not a certain indication of leaf roll. The leaflets of plants affected with mosaic disease have a wrinkled appearance and variegated colour, besides being reduced in size. Further particulars of these diseases and of their effect on crop yields are given in Leaflet No. 73.

HAY.—Although it is yet too early to commence hay harvesting, the mowers and other harvesting implements should be overhauled and put into proper order in readiness for the work, so that possible breakdowns during the busy period may be avoided. It is a great mistake to allow hay which is not intended for seed-saving purposes to become over-ripe before cutting. Over-ripe hay is much inferior in feeding value to that which is cut early in the season, and the

superior quality and higher feeding value of unripe hay more than make up for any slight reduction in yield which may result from early cutting.

PASTURES.—Grassland, particularly that which has been manured during the past winter, should be kept closely grazed at this season. Fresh, young grass is more nutritious and more palatable than that which is allowed to grow and run to seed, and the full benefits from manuring will not be obtained unless close grazing with mixed stock is practised. Where there is a tendency for the grass to run to seed, a run of the mower over the field will be of considerable benefit. This cutting, as well as destroying weeds, will encourage fresh bottom growth.

SEASONAL LIVE STOCK NOTES.

CALF-REARING.—Farmers purchasing dropped calves are reminded of the importance of exercising care in the feeding during the first week or two so that digestive troubles and possible losses may be avoided. It is a good plan to give newly-born purchased calves a dose of castor oil, from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce each, depending on the size of the calf, with the first feed. Milk should be fed sparingly at first, at least three times daily and at regular intervals. Satisfactory results have been obtained by diluting the milk with boiled water during the first four weeks in the case of purchased calves. Commencing with a total quantity of 2 pints per feed ($1\frac{1}{4}$ pints milk and $\frac{3}{4}$ pint boiled water), this amount should be gradually increased to 4 pints per feed (3 pints milk and 1 pint boiled water) in the fourth week. These quantities should be given at regular intervals three times per day.

In the rearing of calves, separated milk should be gradually introduced to replace whole milk when the animals are about one month old, and crushed oats alone, or a mixture of crushed oats, maize meal and bran, given at the rate of about $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. per head daily at the start. An allowance of meals should be given even although the calves are out on pasture, as it is foolish economy to stint the animals at this stage. Full details regarding calf-rearing, along with examples of suitable meal mixtures to use when milk is being withdrawn, are given in Leaflet No. 54.

DISHORNING OF CALVES.—The importance of dishorning all calves intended for sale as beef or stores may again be emphasised. Frequently this simple operation is neglected or overlooked, resulting in a decreased return being obtained for the animal when it is being sold. A stick of caustic potash for dishorning can be obtained from any chemist at a very small cost. Particulars regarding dishorning are given in Leaflet No. 5.

FATTENING OF CATTLE ON PASTURE.—Cattle on grass, intended for fattening, should receive an allowance of concentrates. As young grass is particularly rich in protein matter, an allowance of starchy foods such as maize meal or crushed oats, or a mixture of both, is all that is necessary. From 3 to 5 lb. of concentrates per head, depending on the size and age of the cattle, should be given daily.

"RED-WATER" IN CATTLE.—From reports received it would appear that outbreaks of this disease are prevalent this season, and cattle owners are reminded of the importance of obtaining the services of a veterinary surgeon immediately signs of the disease are noticed. The most recent treatment for "red-water" is the administration of a prepared injection, but this treatment is satisfactory only if it is practised during the early stages of the attack. It is, therefore, particularly important to obtain the services of a veterinary surgeon as soon as the first symptoms are observed. A short memorandum dealing with the prevention and control of this disease has been prepared and copies can be obtained free, on request.

SHEEP.—Sheep-owners are reminded of the double-dipping period, which extends from the 15th June to the 15th August. During that period all sheep must be dipped on two occasions, allowing an interval of not less than 7 or more than 14 days between the two dippings.

As serious consequences may result if sheep which have been driven to the dipping centre are dipped immediately after they arrive there, and while still overheated, sheep-owners are strongly advised to see that, in all cases, the sheep are rested for a period of from half-an-hour to an hour before being dipped, and that dipping does not begin before the sheep have had time to cool to the normal temperature. During this period of resting, the sheep should not be penned closely together, but given adequate room to recover from the effects of the journey. A short rest after dipping is completed, and before the start of the homeward journey, is also advisable.

SHEEP-MAGGOT FLY.—A careful watch should be kept at this time for attacks of the sheep-maggot fly, especially during damp, sultry weather. If attacks occur, the maggots should be rubbed out, using carbolic sheep dip to assist in dislodging the pests. Sores should be dressed finally with an ointment made up of powdered sulphur, mixed with either fresh lard or linseed oil.

SEASONAL GARDEN AND ORCHARD NOTES.

SPRAYING OF APPLE TREES.—The fourth application of Bordeaux mixture to prevent apple scab disease should be given to apple trees about three weeks after the petals have fallen and a fifth application may be made a fortnight after the fourth. Half-strength mixture, that is, 1 lb. copper sulphate, $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. hydrated lime or 8 lb. lime putty

and 40 gallons water, should be used for these later sprayings. Trees of the varieties Grenadier, Royal Codlin, Royal Jubilee, and those of most of the dessert varieties, should not be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture after flowering as the spray causes russetting of the fruit if applied at that time.

MARKETING OF SOFT FRUITS.—Packages for the marketing of soft fruits should be ordered in good time. For successful marketing of soft fruits non-returnable packages are essential. Strawberries are best marketed either in punnets holding 1 lb. each or in chip baskets holding 2 lb. and 3 lb. of fruit each. Black currants should be marketed in 3 lb. baskets, especially if despatched to distant markets, and raspberries either in punnets or in 2 lb. chip baskets lined with water-proof paper. These recommendations do not apply to fruit being sold for manufacturing purposes, for which special packages are usually provided.

VEGETABLES.—The planting out of broccoli, savoys, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kale and leeks should be completed as soon as possible. The ground between the growing plants should be frequently hoed to promote steady growth and to keep down weeds. In late districts, in order to get plants for planting out early in September, a sowing of cabbage seed should be made about the 10th July. Small successive sowings of lettuce should be made to get supplies during the late summer. Particulars of vegetable growing are given in Leaflet No. 67.

"FINGER AND TOE" DISEASE.—Where this disease of cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and other members of the cabbage family is feared, the ground around the plants should be treated with a solution of mercuric chloride (corrosive sublimate) to prevent the disease. The solution is prepared by dissolving 1 ounce of mercuric chloride in a small quantity of hot water and making up to 10 gallons with cold water. About $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of the solution should be poured on the soil around each plant after planting out.

CABBAGE ROOT FLY MAGGOT.—This pest can also be controlled by applying mercuric chloride solution, but in this case two applications are necessary. A quarter of a pint of the solution as specified above should be poured around each plant after planting out and a further quarter pint in about 14 days afterwards.

Mercuric chloride may be obtained from a chemist or druggist. It is extremely poisonous and the utmost care is necessary in its use. The solution should be made up in an earthenware vessel and applied with a cup or glass. The solution should not be left where stock of any kind have access to it and the vessels used in its preparation and application should either be destroyed after use or washed thoroughly before being used for any other purpose. If washed, the washing water should not be thrown out where stock may drink it.

SEASONAL POULTRY-KEEPING NOTES.

DISINFECTION AND STORING OF REARING APPLIANCES.—Now that the hatching season is over, all incubators and other rearing appliances should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before being stored away. A disinfectant, such as Jeyes' Fluid (one part in twenty parts water), is useful for such purposes and can be readily applied with a brush or as a spray. Where outbreaks of disease have occurred, fumigation with formaldehyde gas, in addition to cleaning and disinfection, should be carried out. Particulars regarding fumigation of incubators and other appliances are given in Leaflet No. 59.

CARE OF POULTRY HOUSES.—This is a suitable time to carry out any necessary repairs to poultry houses. Attention given to small items of repair now may save considerable expenditure at a later date. In addition to carrying out repair work, the outsides of the houses should receive an application of tar or creosote, while the insides should be limewashed. Limewashing will aid in preventing infestations of parasites, such as red mites and lice, which frequently prove troublesome during the summer months and are very detrimental to the health of the birds. If red mites are found in the house, paraffin should be added to the limewash at the rate of about $\frac{1}{2}$ pint to each gallon of limewash. The most convenient method of destroying lice is to paint the upper surfaces of the perches with nicotine sulphate, just before the birds go to roost. Nicotine sulphate can be obtained from any chemist.

MANAGEMENT AND FEEDING OF PULLETS.—The importance of good management and correct feeding of the young growing pullets may again be stressed; winter egg production is greatly influenced by the treatment given at this stage of growth. Ample range and adequate housing accommodation are essential for full development of body and vigour. Slatted-floor houses on free range are ideal for growing pullets, and the birds should be kept continuously on fresh, clean pasture by moving the houses frequently.

Overcrowding in badly ventilated houses should be rigidly avoided, as this is the most frequent cause of the appearance of the unthrifty type of bird. If the housing accommodation is limited, the pullets should get first preference. The culling out and disposal of old hens, unthrifty birds, and all cockerels ready for sale, will assist in solving the congestion problem, as well as being a sound proposition from the economic point of view.

The food given to the growing pullets should be ample in quantity, but not of a too-stimulating nature. Birds on free range at this time pick up a considerable amount of insect food, and the allowance of protein foods, such as fish meal or meat meal, in the mash should, therefore, be reduced, or these meals omitted altogether, if the pullets

are ranging on good fresh young pasture. Satisfactory development in the growing pullets should not be judged solely by increases in body weight. It is possible to obtain very rapid increases in body weight by feeding particular rations, but such rapid growth may lead to premature maturity and impaired constitution. The object of the rearer should be to feed and manage the growing pullets, and the young cockerels intended for stock purposes, in such a way as to obtain steady, normal growth, and strong, vigorous constitution. The birds should be encouraged to build up large frames and bodily reserves rather than to commence laying eggs before they are in a fit condition to do so.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supply for all poultry should be ample during the summer months ; an inadequate supply may cause a serious drop in production in the case of the laying flock, particularly during hot weather. Fresh, clean water should be provided twice daily, and the vessels containing it placed in a cool spot, protected from the sun.

PROVISION OF SHADE.—During hot weather, poultry should be allowed access to places where they will obtain protection from the sun. If there are no trees, shrubs or hedges where the birds can obtain protection, a roughly-prepared shelter made of branches and covered with bags, rushes or straw should be provided.

POULTRY RUNS.—Grass on poultry runs should be kept short during the summer months by periodical mowing. If sheep are available, a few can with advantage be run in the pens. They will keep the grass in good order for the poultry and reduce the amount of mowing necessary.

CARE OF EGGS.—The importance of marketing only infertile eggs which are clean and fresh may again be stressed. Male birds should be removed from the laying flock and kept in isolation or sold off. The eggs should be collected from the nests frequently, stored in the coolest room available, and marketed regularly. On no account should broody hens be allowed to sit on nests, as if this is done the quality of the eggs for marketing will be greatly impaired. Immediately broody hens are noticed they should be placed in airy coops and fed well so that they may soon come into production again. These items of management and marketing are essential for the progress of the egg export trade. Further hints on the care and marketing of eggs are given in Leaflets Nos. 27 and 57.

REARING OF TURKEYS.—Young turkeys should be run on fresh, clean pasture, on which turkeys or other poultry have not been kept previously. Rearing on fresh ground aids in the prevention of outbreaks of diseases such as "blackhead," gapes, etc., and promotes the growth of vigorous birds. Information relating to the feeding and management of turkeys is given in Leaflet No. 37.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS.

GENERAL.

Copies of the leaflets mentioned in this Report are obtainable free, on request.

The next session at the Ulster Dairy School, Cookstown, and at the North-West School, Strabane, begins on the 21st July. Applications for the free scholarships, offered by County Committees of Agriculture, to the North-West School should be made by intending pupils to the Secretary, Committee of Agriculture for the County, as soon as possible. There is no qualifying examination for these scholarships, but as the number is strictly limited, early application is necessary. Prospectuses of both Schools can be obtained from the Ministry, free, on request.

Applications for the scholarships to Greenmount Agricultural and Horticultural College, offered by County Committees of Agriculture, should be made to the Secretary, County Committee of Agriculture, before the 31st July next. A prospectus of the College, containing an application form, may be had free, on request.

Farmers who desire to have growing crops of potatoes inspected for purity certificates should make application to the Ministry, or to the local Potato Inspector, before the end of June. Unless applications are received in good time by the Ministry, no assurance can be given that crops can be inspected.

Inspections in connection with the destruction of noxious weeds will commence shortly.

The summer sheep dipping period commences on the 15th June and ends on the 15th August. All sheep must be dipped twice during that period, the interval between the two dippings being not less than seven or more than fourteen days.

Apple orchard competitions will be again conducted this year by the Ulster Horticultural Society. Entries for these competitions should be forwarded not later than the 15th July to the Secretary of the Society, Mr. R. McCann, 39 Textile Buildings, 9 Donegall Square South, Belfast, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

Poultry keepers who desire to have birds blood-tested for bacillary white diarrhoea disease, should make application to the Poultry Instructor for the district as soon as possible, and not later than the 1st August next. A list giving the names and addresses of Instructors in Poultry-keeping is given on page 28 of this report.

A register of accredited poultry farms will again be issued this autumn. Copies of the conditions and application forms will be available soon, and may be obtained from the Ministry free, on request.

The next laying test at Stormont will begin on the 2nd October, 1936, and entries should be made not later than 1st September next. Copies of the rules of the test will be available soon and may be obtained free, on request from the Ministry.

OFFER OF SCHOLARSHIPS.

The attention of young men and women in Northern Ireland is directed to the offer in the near future of scholarships by the County Committees of Agriculture and by the Ministry. Details of the scholarships are given hereunder.

SCHOLARSHIPS IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE.

The Ministry offers four valuable scholarships in Agricultural Science for competition in the autumn among young men in Northern Ireland. Each is of the value of £95 per annum, and is tenable for four years in the Faculty of Agriculture of the Queen's University of Belfast. Successful candidates are afforded the opportunity of securing the most advanced training in Agricultural Science and obtaining, on conclusion of the course, the degree of Bachelor of Agriculture. The value of the scholarships enables the holders to pay their fees and retain a balance for upkeep purposes.

Candidates must be between the ages of seventeen and thirty on the 15th November, 1936, and must have passed the Matriculation examination of the University or its accepted equivalent.

Eligible applicants will be submitted by the Ministry to an examination, the object of which will be to test their knowledge of practical agriculture, or their knowledge of elementary science as applied to agriculture.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Stormont, Belfast, and the prescribed form of application for admission to the examination, duly completed, must reach the Ministry's offices not later than the 15th August, 1936.

SCHOLARSHIP IN CREAMERY MANAGEMENT.

The Ministry also offers for competition next month one valuable scholarship to provide for a special course of technical training in Creamery Management. The scholarship will be of the value of £98 6s., and the holder will be enabled to pursue the course at University College, Cork, leading to the award of the College Diploma in Dairy Science. In view of the provision in the Marketing of Dairy Produce Act (Northern Ireland) that managers of Central and Auxiliary Creameries shall hold qualifications of a standard prescribed by the Ministry, this opportunity of obtaining the requisite course of training

is of special importance to young men in Northern Ireland; the Diploma referred to above is naturally one of the highest qualifications which an applicant for the post of Creamery Manager can possess.

The course will consist of two terms of technical training during the winters of 1936-37 and 1937-38, with an intervening period of practical training of twenty weeks duration at the College Experimental Creamery, and at an approved Creamery in Northern Ireland in the summer of 1937.

Applicants must be between eighteen and thirty years of age on the 1st October, 1936, and must be resident or the sons of residents in Northern Ireland for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1935. Previous knowledge of creamery work is not essential, but a good standard of general education will be required.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Stormont, Belfast, and all forms of application must be lodged with the Ministry on or before the 30th June, 1936.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO GREENMOUNT AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL COLLEGE, MUCKAMORE, CO. ANTRIM.

Each County Committee of Agriculture in Northern Ireland offers for competition next August scholarships in Agriculture and Horticulture, tenable at this College for the session 1936/1937. One additional scholarship is also offered by the Royal Dublin Society under the terms of the Anne Hall Endowment Scheme to residents in Counties Fermanagh and Londonderry.

There are few, if any, more attractive opportunities offered to farmers' sons anywhere for procuring a sound training in agriculture than to the youth of Northern Ireland through the medium of these scholarships. The holders are entitled to free board, residence and a thorough training in agricultural or horticultural subjects for ten months.

Greenmount College is situated about one mile from Antrim in a good agricultural district, and amidst pleasant surroundings. The College buildings, which are quite up to the standard of the best boarding schools in the country, are lighted throughout by electricity and are centrally heated; they provide accommodation for fifty students, who reside in the College. Classrooms, laboratories, etc., are set apart for the different subjects in which indoor instruction is given, and these are fully equipped with the necessary apparatus.

The farm attached to the College extends to 242 acres, and the students take part in all the operations connected with its working as a mixed tillage farm. They also receive practical instruction in poultry husbandry, dairying, veterinary hygiene, woodwork, vegetable growing, fruit cultivation and bee-keeping.

The course is primarily intended to give students a sound technical and practical knowledge of agriculture such as will be of very great use to them in their future careers as farmers. It also provides an ex-

cellent preparation for students desirous of competing for the University Scholarships in Agricultural Science which are referred to above.

Intending candidates should communicate immediately with the Secretary or Agricultural Organiser to the County Committee of Agriculture for the county in which they reside, with whom the prescribed form of application must be lodged before the 31st July next.

NORTH WEST SCHOOL, STRABANE.

Each County Committee of Agriculture in Northern Ireland also offers scholarships to young women tenable at the North West School, Strabane, for the session which will open on the 21st July next and terminate on the 2nd October. The holders of scholarships are entitled to free instruction, board and residence, and the course provides a sound practical education in all matters connected with woman's sphere in ordinary farm life, including poultry-keeping, dairying, rural housewifery and sick nursing.

The School is directly controlled by the Ministry and is situated in picturesque surroundings about two miles from Strabane. The equipment and accommodation are of most modern type, and the welfare of pupils is assured, as they are under the supervision of an experienced matron.

Applicants for scholarships must be between seventeen and thirty-five years of age, and those intending to apply should communicate immediately with the Secretary or Agricultural Organiser to the County Committee of Agriculture for the county in which they reside.

INSPECTION OF GROWING CROPS OF POTATOES.

Arrangements have again been made this year whereby growers of potatoes may have their growing crops inspected for purity. It is only for such inspected and certified crops that reliable guarantees as to purity can be given, and growers are therefore urged to avail themselves of this scheme in order to comply with the regulations dealing with the export of seed potatoes which include the following provisions :—

“ All bags of potatoes must be clearly branded with the name of the variety or, alternatively, must be branded ‘ mixed varieties.’ ”

“ Seed potatoes for export in packages branded with the name of variety must be the produce of certified crops of a purity of not less than 97%. ”

Each consignment of seed potatoes of a named variety delivered to a merchant for the purpose of his export trade is required to be accompanied by a written guarantee on Form B.S. 37 from the producer that the potatoes are the produce of a crop certified by the Ministry. In the guarantee the number of the crop certificate issued by the Ministry must be stated.

In view of the Potato Marketing Scheme which is now in operation, it is of vital importance if ware potatoes are to be accepted in cross-Channel markets that they should not be composed of mixed varieties and that they should be supplied true to the name of the variety under which they are sold.

Crops of the varieties Black Skerry, Arran Chief and President will not be inspected.

No charge is made for inspection of crops or for certificates.

Applications on the prescribed forms, which may be had from the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Stormont, Belfast, should be returned before the end of June.

FIXTURE LIST OF AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SHOWS FOR THE YEAR 1936.

Title of Society or Association.	Centre.	Date.
COUNTY ANTRIM.		
County Antrim Agricultural Association ..	Ballymena	17th June
North Antrim Agricultural Association	Ballymoney	23rd June
Cushendall Agricultural Association	Cushendall	14th July
Glenarm and District Agricultural Society ..	Glenarm	15th July
Templepatrick Working Men's Association (Horticulture)	Templepatrick	21st August
North Antrim Horticultural Association ..	Ballymoney	27th August
Ballymena Horticultural Society	Ballymena	2-3rd September
Ulster Horticultural Society	Belfast	18th & 19th Nov.
CO. DOWN.		
Banbridge Farming Society	Banbridge	18th June
Castlewellan Agricultural and Industrial Association	Castlewellan	16th July
Bangor Horticultural Society	Bangor	19-20th August
Waringstown Horticultural Society	Waringstown	28th August
Newtownards Horticultural Society	Newtownards	3rd September
CO. LONDONDERRY.		
North West of Ireland Agricultural Society ..	Londonderry	24-25th June
Eglinton Gardening Society	Eglinton	23rd July
Garvagh Women's Institute	Garvagh	6th August
County Committee of Agriculture Sheep Show ..	Draperstown	7th August
County Committee of Agriculture Sheep Show and Dungiven Young Farmers' Club	Dungiven	11th August
Coleraine and District Horticultural Society ..	Coleraine	4th September
Culmore Horticultural Society	Culmore	22nd August
City of Derry and District Horticultural Society ..	Londonderry	9th September (Provisional)
CO. FERMANAGH.		
Fermanagh Farming Society	Enniskillen	2nd September
CO. TYRONE.		
Tyrone Farming Society	Omagh	1st July
Irish Goat Society	Trillick	15th July
County Committee of Agriculture Sheep Show ..	Plumbridge	22nd July
County Committee of Agriculture Sheep Show ..	Killeter	23rd July
Clogher Valley Agricultural Society	Clogher	29th July

COMPULSORY LICENSING OF BULLS.

The Ministry of Agriculture announces that the owners of bulls which were born in July, August, September, October, November and December, 1935, must be in possession of licences for their animals by the 30th September, 1936, and that applications for licences on the prescribed forms must reach the Ministry's offices not later than the 31st July, 1936. We would advise farmers not to delay but to apply immediately to the Ministry for application forms and a list of centres at which bulls will be inspected for licences.

It is understood that such forms and lists may also be procured at any police barracks. Every person who lodges on the prescribed form an application for a licence not later than the 31st July, 1936, will be notified by the Ministry regarding the actual place, date and hour appointed for the inspection of his bull.

SCHEME FOR THE BLOOD TESTING OF POULTRY FOR BACILLARY WHITE DIARRHOEA.

Poultry-keepers who desire to have birds blood-tested are reminded that early application should be made to the Instructor in Poultry-keeping for their county or district, and, in any case, not later than the 1st August next. Applications received after that date cannot receive the Instructor's attention until all previous applications have been dealt with. Copies of the Scheme, which gives full particulars regarding the conditions under which testing is carried out, fees, etc., and of the prescribed form of application, may be obtained from the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Stormont, Belfast, or from the Instructor. The following is a list of the names and addresses of the Instructors in Poultry-keeping:—

COUNTY.			NAME AND ADDRESS.
Antrim (North)	..	Miss A. M. Nedwill	{ c/o The Secretary, County Antrim Committee of Agriculture, County Courthouse, Belfast.
Do. (South)	..	.. A. G. Pollock	
Armagh	..	.. Miss A. G. English,	c/o. The Agricultural Organiser, County Armagh Committee of Agriculture, Russell Street, Armagh.
Down (Mid)	..	Miss L. Walters	{ c/o. The Agricultural Organiser, County Down Committee of Agriculture, Northern Bank Chambers, May Street, Belfast.
Do. (South)	..	.. W. McMullen	
Do. (North)	..	.. E. F. Anderson	
Fermanagh	..	.. Miss A. M. Callery,	c/o. The Secretary, County Fermanagh Committee of Agriculture, Court- house, Enniskillen.
Londonderry (North)	..	Miss E. McCluggage	{ c/o. The Secretary, County London- derry Committee of Agriculture, Courthouse, Coleraine.
Do. (South)	..	.. E. E. Clarke	
Tyrone (North)	..	Miss M. H. Davidson	{ c/o The Secretary, Co. Tyrone Committee of Agriculture, Court- house, Omagh.
Do. (South)	..	.. M. C. J. Davidson	

FOURTEENTH EGG-LAYING TEST AT STORMONT.

RESULTS TO END OF EIGHTH PERIOD.

The eighth period of four weeks ended on the 15th May, 1936. A slight seasonal decrease in egg production took place during the period ; the average production, based on the number of birds originally penned was 18.3 eggs per bird, against an average of 19.9 eggs per bird during the preceding period. The cause of the decline in production was due chiefly to an increase in broodiness.

In the table which follows is given the average egg production per bird during the eighth period, and for the eight periods the test has been in progress. The average production is shown, both on the basis of the 912 birds originally penned and on the basis of the 862 birds which were alive at the end of the period. Further, the table shows the averages of the total number of eggs laid, and of the number of scoring eggs laid :—

	Average egg production during the eighth period.		Average egg production during all eight periods.	
	Based on entire flock of 912 Birds.	Of the 862 birds alive on 15th May.	Based on entire flock of 912 Birds.	Of the 862 birds alive on 15th May.
Total number of eggs	18.3	19.3	123.7	128.5
Number of scoring eggs i.e., Super grade and 1st grade	16.5	17.4	105.9	110.1

Eight birds died during the period, bringing the total number of deaths from the start of the test to the end of the eighth period to 50. This represents a mortality rate of 5.48 per cent.

The following are the rates of mortality in respect of the different breeds represented :—

Breed.	No. of birds originally penned.	No. of deaths.	Mortality per cent.
White Wyandottes	288	23	8.0
White Leghorns	120	11	9.2
Rhode Island Reds	420	13	3.1
Light Sussex	66	1	1.5
Barred Rocks	6	1	16.6
Buff Rocks	6	1	16.6
Welsummers	6	—	—
Totals	912	50	5.48

The gratifying feature is the low mortality amongst the Rhode Island Reds and the Light Sussex. On the other hand, the mortality rates in respect of the White Wyandottes and the White Leghorns are disquieting. The mortality in the cases of the Barred Rocks and Buff Rocks is not comparable on account of the small number of birds represented.

The following are the particulars of the leading pens in each section of the test as at the end of the eighth period :—

SECTION 1.—WHITE WYANDOTTES (OPEN). 30 PENS.

Position.	No. of Pen.	Name and Address of Owner.	Number of Eggs Laid.			Test Score Value.
			Super Grade.	First Grade.	Below First Grade.	
1	3	Mrs. H. G. Darley, Trory, Ballinamallard, Co. Fermanagh.	462	393	80	855
2	11	Mr. J. Hall, Lilac Cottage, Donacloney, Co. Down.	714	117	13	831
3	7	Lieut.-Col. J. P. Galbraith, Clanabogan, Omagh, Co. Tyrone.	325	501	90	826

SECTION 2.—WHITE LEGHORNS (OPEN). 8 PENS.

1	37	Mr. J. Waugh, Ballyrickard, Kilwaughter, Co. Antrim.	315	365	93	680
2	36	Mrs. J. Warnock, Towerview, Rathgael, Bangor, Co. Down.	215	448	33	663
3	33	Mr. W. Gunning, Inglenook, Ballywalter, Co. Down.	348	289	184	637

SECTION 3.—RHODE ISLAND REDS (OPEN). 38 PENS.

1	70	Miss R. L. Sinclair, Ballybirnie, Holyhill, Strabane, Co. Tyrone.	494	371	88	865
2	75	Mrs. E. R. Dunwoody, Benmore, Islandmagee, Co. Antrim.	599	234	46	833
3	59	Mrs. J. McNeill, Drain's Bay, Larne, Co. Antrim.	588	233	27	821

SECTION 4.—ANY OTHER PURE BREED. 14 PENS.

1	83	Mrs. H. W. Merrick, Agivey House, Aghadowey, Co. Londonderry.	456	270	53	726
2	82	Miss C. C. Meara, Coalisland, Co. Tyrone.	203	476	62	679
3	81	Mrs. T. J. McLaren, Ballykeel, Sixmilecross, Co. Tyrone. (All Light Sussex.)	300	306	137	606

SECTION 5(a).—WHITE WYANDOTTES (STATION-HOLDERS). 13 PENS.

Position.	No. of Pen.	Name and Address of Owner.	Number of Eggs Laid.			
			Super Grade.	First Grade.	Below First Grade.	Test Score Value.
1	95	Mrs. R. McCullough, Bruslee, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim.	538	298	34	836
2	99	Mrs. M. Rodgers, Ballyginney, Dundrum, Co. Down.	520	301	97	821
3	94	Miss M. McAllister, Backnamullagh, Dromore, Co. Down.	588	159	69	747

SECTION 5 (b).—WHITE LEGHORNS (STATION-HOLDERS). 10 PENS.

1	108	Mrs. J. Knox, Shanmullagh, Edinney, Co. Fermanagh.	520	207	54	727
2	107	Mr. P. King, Leitrim, Banbridge, Co. Down.	536	165	12	701
3	104	Mrs. W. Crawford, Redegan, Beragh, Co. Tyrone.	417	272	73	689

SECTION 5 (c).—RHODE ISLAND REDS (STATION-HOLDERS). 22 PENS.

1	120	Mrs. M. D. Bell, Woodview, Moneymore, Co. Londonderry.	558	297	46	855
2	118	Miss M. L. Fleming, Ballymenagh, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone.	537	302	38	839
3	126	Mrs. R. McGiffert, Rathcunningham, Toye, Co. Down.	556	249	65	805

SECTION 6.—POULTRY CLUBS AND YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS. 17 PENS.

1	149	Banbridge and District Poultry Club. (Rhode Island Reds.)	493	337	54	830
2	141	Ballyclare Poultry Club. (White Leghorns.)	431	352	64	783
	136	Ballywalter Young Farmers' Club. (White Wyandottes.)	386	397	75	783
3	151	Dungiven Young Farmers' Club. (Rhode Island Reds.)	459	277	27	736

The "test score value" means the total of the super grade and first grade eggs. Eggs which weigh less than 2 ounces each are graded as "below first grade" throughout the entire test period.

The pen of Rhode Island Reds, entered by Miss R. L. Sinclair, which is leading in Section 3, now occupies first place in the entire test, displacing from that position the pen of White Wyandottes entered by Mrs. Darley. The latter pen and that of Rhode Island Reds, entered by Mrs. M. D. Bell and leading in Section 5 (c), tie for second place in the entire test.

Mr. Hall's pen of White Wyandottes (2nd in Section 1) retains the distinction of having produced the highest number of super grade eggs; all the eggs laid by this pen of birds during the eighth period were super grade.

The pen of White Leghorns entered by Ballyclare Poultry Club, which occupies second place in Section 6, retains its position as the leading pen of White Leghorns in the entire test.

PRICES OF FEEDING STUFFS.

The following table shows the average retail prices per cwt. of Feeding Stuffs at 1st June, 1936, with comparative figures for the corresponding date in 1935.

	1935.				1936.			
	Price per cwt.	Protein equivalent	Price per unit of protein equivalent	Starch equivalent	Price per unit of starch equivalent	Price per cwt.	Protein equivalent	Starch equivalent
STARCHY FOODS:								
Maize (whole) ..	s. 5 0½	6.8	s. 14 10½	81.5	s. 1 3	s. 5 6	6.8	81.5
Maize Meal ..	5 6	6.8	16 2	81.5	1 4	5 8	6.8	81.5
Bran, Red ..	7 1½	10.0	14 3½	45.3	3 2	6 9	10.0	45.3
Bran, White ..	8 6	10.0	17 0	45.3	3 9	7 10	10.0	45.3
Pollard, Brown ..	7 3	11.0	13 2	71.2	2 0	7 2	11.0	71.2
Pollard, White ..	8 4½	11.0	15 3	71.2	2 4	7 11	11.0	71.2
Barley Meal ..	7 0	6.2	22 7	69.7	2 0	7 7	6.2	69.7
Oats ..	6 8½	7.6	17 7	60.0	2 3	6 1	7.6	60.0
Wheat (whole) ..	7 9½	9.6	16 3	72.0	2 2	—	9.6	72.0
PROTEIN FOODS:								
Linseed Cake, home-made ..	13 2	25.0	10 6	71.8	3 8	10 4	25.0	71.8
Linseed Cake, foreign ..	9 0½	25.0	7 3	71.8	2 6	9 4	25.0	71.8
Linseed Cake Meal ..	9 6	25.0	7 7	72.8	2 7	9 8	25.0	72.8
Cotton Cake, decorticated ..	8 11	35.0	5 1	71.2	2 6	9 2	35.0	71.2
Cotton Cake, decorticated ..	6 0	17.0	7 1	39.2	3 1	6 3	17.0	39.2
Earth Nut Cake, decorticated ..	8 8	41.0	4 3	73.0	2 4	8 7	41.0	73.0
Soya Bean Meal (extracted) ..	9 1	38.0	4 9	64.0	2 10	8 7	38.0	64.0
Bean Meal ..	8 0	20.0	8 0	66.0	2 5	8 3	20.0	66.0
Fish Meal (60% protein) ..	15 3	53.0	5 9	58.9	5 2	16 0	53.0	58.9
Meat and Bone Meal (40% protein) ..	9 6	36.2	5 3	44.0	4 4	9 5	36.2	44.0
Meat and Bone Meal (60% protein) ..	14 8	54.9	5 4	61.3	4 9	14 8	54.9	61.3
OTHER FEEDING STUFFS:								
Linseed, whole ..	14 10	19.0	15 7	119.2	2 6	15 10	19.0	119.2
Brewers' Grains (dried) ..	6 6	13.0	10 0	50.3	2 7	—	13.0	50.3
Palm Nut Cake ..	7 9½	17.0	9 2	70.2	2 3	7 9	17.0	70.2
Palm Nut Meal ..	7 11	17.0	9 4	78.0	2 0	7 11	17.0	78.0
Potatoes ..	3 1½	0.6	104 10	18.0	3 6	3 10	0.6	18.0
Oat Straw ..	2 1	0.9	46 3	20.0	2 1	1 7	0.9	20.0
Meadow Hay ..	2 8	4.6	11 7	37.0	1 5	2 3	4.6	37.0
Turnips (Swede) ..	0 7	0.7	16 8	7.0	1 8	0 8	0.7	7.0

One of the objects of the foregoing table is to guide farmers in the economic purchase of feeding stuffs.

Ignoring their mineral content, the valuable constituents of any feeding stuff, whether home-grown or purchased, consist of :—

- (1) Carbohydrates—a group of substances which include materials such as starch, sugar, etc. They supply heat or energy to the animal, and the surplus is stored by the animal as fat.
- (2) Oil—which also provides heat or energy, the surplus being stored as fat. For this purpose oil is approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as valuable as the carbohydrates, but its presence in the ration in excessive quantities may lower the digestibility of the ration and cause digestive troubles.
- (3) Protein—The group of bodies termed protein or albuminoids contain nitrogen. Protein is the only ingredient of a feeding stuff which can produce flesh or muscle, and hence its special importance.

All animals require a certain amount of each of the above constituents, but the relative amounts depend upon the class of stock. Thus, for example, a two-year-old fattening bullock requires a relatively small amount of protein (flesh forming material). Its ration should consist mainly of foods rich in carbohydrates, *i.e.*, fat producing substances. On the other hand, a dairy cow is producing milk, which is a substance rich in protein, and as the protein, that is flesh forming material in milk, can only be derived from the protein in the food, the ration for the dairy cow must contain considerably more protein than that for the fattening bullock.

There are very wide differences in the composition of feeding stuffs, both home grown and purchased. Some, such as oats and maize, are rich in carbohydrates, and, therefore, particularly valuable for fattening purposes, whilst others, such as decorticated cotton cake, earlnut cake and linseed cake, are rich in protein, and are chiefly valuable for their flesh and milk-producing properties.

In the following table the composition of some of the more commonly used feeding stuffs is shown :—

PERCENTAGE COMPOSITION

	Water.	Protein.	Oil.	Carbohydrates.
Turnips (Swede)	88	1	0.2	9
Potatoes	75	2	0.1	21
Oat Straw	14	4	2	37
Meadow Hay	10	10	3	45
Pasture Grass	80	3.5	0.8	10
Cabbage	89	1.5	0.5	8
Fattening Foods:				
Oats	13	9	6	60
Maize Meal	12	10	4	70
Barley Meal	13	12	2	66
Flesh Forming Foods:				
Linseed Cake	11	30	10	35
Decorticated Cotton Cake ..	9	40	9	26

The farmer frequently asks what is the cheapest feeding stuff to buy. It is, however, often very difficult to give a direct answer. Much depends upon what the feeding stuff is required for, whether for fattening or milk production. Again, maize and oats are essentially fattening foods, whilst decorticated cotton cake is a flesh-forming food, and it would be just as futile to use the cost per ton to compare their values as it would be to use the cost per ton to compare the values of, say, sulphate of ammonia and superphosphate.

Foods of similar composition can, however, be compared, and it is possible for the enterprising farmer to effect considerable economies, not only in the use of home-grown feeding stuffs, but particularly in the purchase of concentrated feeding stuffs, by studying the market prices.

The starch equivalent figure is a measure of the energy, heat or fat producing value of the feeding stuff, and shows the number of pounds of starch which would be required to give the same heat or energy as 100 lb. of the feeding stuff. For example, the table on page 32 states that the starch equivalent of maize meal is $81\frac{1}{2}$, or, in other words, 100 lb. of maize meal will provide as much heat or energy as $81\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of pure starch.

The protein equivalent figure shows the number of pounds of digestible flesh or muscle producing material in 100 lb. of each of the feeding stuffs listed.

PRICES OF FAT STOCK.

The following are the average prices per live cwt. of bullocks and heifers, sold at Belfast Auction Marts during each of the four weeks ended 26th May, 1936:—

Week ended.	Bullocks				Heifers.	
	s.	d.			s.	d.
5th May	34	9	..		35	0
12th May	34	6	..		34	9
19th May	35	6	..		35	3
26th May	35	9	..		36	3

PRICES OF LIVE STOCK.

Average Prices of Live Stock at Fairs during the Month of May, 1936.

Date	Fair.	Calves (under 9 months.)	Store Cattle.	Fat Cattle (18 months over).	Springers.		Milch Cows.	Fat Lambs (under 12 months old).	Fat Sheep (over 2 years old.)	Young Pigs.
					Cows.	Heifers.				
		Per Head	Per Cwt. Live Wgt.	Per Cwt. Live Wgt.	Per Head	Per Head	Per Head	Per Head	Per Head	Per Head
		£ s.			£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.
1	Moy ..	..	31/6 to 39/-	32/-	14 17/6	11 10	14 7/6	-	†1 17/6 †1 13/9 †1 15	-
5	Omagh ..	5 10	35/- to 39/-	31/-	15 0	13 10	12 0	†2 2/6	†1 15 †1 10	-
6	Londonderry ..	-	26/6 to 34/-	31/-	15 10	13 0	-	-	-	1 6
7	Ballymoney ..	5 15	30/6 to 35/6	30/-	14 5	12 15	13 0	-	-	1 7/6
8	Ballygawley ..	-	30/- to 36/6	31/6	14 10	-	14 0	-	†1 15	1 12/6
8	Irvinestown ..	5 18/9	31/- to 34/-	32/-	14 0	13 0	13 0	-	†1 15	1 11/6
11	Enniskillen ..	4 17	27/- to 32/-	32/-	15 0	11 10	14 0	-	-	1 11
12	Strabane ..	4 5	32/6 to 33/-	31/6	15 0	-	11 15	-	-	-
13	Crossgar ..	-	33/- to 35/-	-	15 0	13 10	12 10	-	-	1 15
13	Kilrea ..	4 13/3	23/6 to 32/-	30/-	14 0	11 0	12 0	-	†1 17/6	1 7/6
16	Portadown ..	5 8/3	29/- to 33/-	32/-	16 0	14 0	15 0	-	-	1 10
18	Camlough ..	4 10	23/- to 29/6	31/6	13 10	12 10	12 0	†1 12/6	†1 17/6	-
18	Claudy ..	-	29/- to 34/-	31/6	16 0	13 0	-	-	-	1 6
20	Lisnaskea ..	4 9/9	27/- to 32/-	31/6	14 10	14 5	13 0	-	-	1 13
21	Ballynahinch ..	-	32/- to 34/-	33/-	16 0	14 10	13 15	-	†1 17	1 15
21	Money more ..	3 18/6	30/- to 34/-	32/6	11 10	10 15	11 0	†1 14	†1 15/3	1 11/6
22	Finone ..	6 0	35/- to 39/-	32/6	14 10	13 10	12 0	†1 15	†1 15	1 10
23	Ballymena ..	5 18/3	23/- to 34/-	-	19 0	18 15	17 0	-	-	1 15
28	Antrim ..	7 12/9	34/- to 40/-	34/-	19 0	16 0	17 10	-	-	1 10
29	Castlederg ..	4 15	27/- to 30/-	33/-	14 0	-	-	†1 10	†1 15	1 12/6
29	Killylea ..	-	28/6 to 36/-	33/6	14 0	-	13 0	-	†1 15	-

† Down and Cross.

‡ Long Wools.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Table showing the Imports and Exports through Northern Ireland ports of certain Agricultural Products during the month ended 30th April, 1936, and the four months ended 30th April, 1936, with comparative figures for the corresponding periods in 1935.
(These figures are supplied through the courtesy of the Ministry of Commerce and are subject to revision).

COMMODITY.	IMPORTS.				EXPORTS.			
	Month ended 30th April		Four months ended 30th April		Month ended 30th April		Four months ended 30th April	
	1936	1935	1936	1935	1936	1935	1936	1935
Bacon cwt.	1,102	5,109	6,531	12,926	23,479	14,130	121,155	61,293
Hams "	415	593	2,213	2,398	11,132	9,516	47,671	46,238
Pork "	—	—	—	—	1,769	3,932	12,834	17,085
Butter "	15,282	16,717	58,690	64,223	112	134	829	718
Eggs gt. hds.	7,526	6,170	32,222	25,697	396,771	472,741	953,386	1,134,141
Oat Products (inc. Oatmeal) .. cwt.	1,733	2,104	8,365	6,931	5,221	7,675	34,918	36,182
Potatoes tons	2	9	21	26	25,894	14,698	112,002	56,693
Poultry cwt.	8	7	113	57	6,277	8,304	81,648	80,203
Grass Seeds "	1,487	4,363	5,516	28,488	57,088	31,852	198,788	191,578

There were no Imports of oats direct from abroad through Northern Ireland Ports during the month of April, 1936, or during the corresponding month last year.

SHIPMENTS OF LIVE STOCK.

Statement Showing the Shipments of Live Stock from Northern Ireland Ports during the following periods, months of May, 1936, April, 1936, May, 1935, five months ended 31st May, 1936, and 31st May, 1935:—

PORTS OF:—		CATTLE.						SHEEP.				PIGS.		
		Milch Cows		Springers	Calves	Total	Fat	Stores	Lambs	Total	Fat	Stores	Total	Horses.
		Fat	Stores											
Belfast	..	4,622	5,378	143	—	11,165	157	—	7,016	7,173	2,288	1	2,259	851
Larne	..	8	3,255	40	—	3,303	—	—	717	717	809	103	912	63
Londonderry	..	472	7,655	23	2,750	10,924	82	—	1,760	1,842	250	—	250	9
Newry	..	7	196	—	9	212	41	—	164	205	—	—	—	—
Total, May, 1936	..	5,109	16,484	206	2,759	25,604	280	—	9,657	9,937	3,317	104	3,421	923
Total, Apr., 1936	..	6,894	17,890	118	3,675	29,644	464	—	975	1,439	3,780	117	3,897	484
Total, May, 1935	..	5,928	21,332	412	5,020	33,756	493	—	11,023	11,516	5,633	280	5,963	951
Total Five months ended 31st May, 1936	..	38,262	78,328	537	10,982	133,234	6,262	—	10,647	16,909	20,230	288	20,518	2,417
Total Five months ended 31st May, 1935	..	32,546	86,056	899	10,479	135,695	13,251	—	14,297	27,548	39,639	1,687	41,326	2,603

Table showing the numbers of Live Stock (1) exposed for sale and (2) sold at 20 fairs in Northern Ireland during the months of May, 1935 and April and May, 1936.

Description of Live Stock.	May, 1935.		April, 1936.		May, 1936.	
	Number exposed for sale.	Number sold.	Number exposed for sale.	Number sold.	Number exposed for sale.	Number sold.
Store Cattle ..	10,334	8,062	7,955	6,629	8,712	6,945
Fat Cattle ..	1,212	1,094	1,599	1,461	1,136	1,056
Dairy Cattle ..	1,473	1,069	1,219	940	1,226	987
Sheep ..	597	400	564	356	678	441
Lambs ..	331	289	131	113	273	211
Young Pigs ..	3,205	2,742	3,150	2,705	3,500	2,897

Supplies of store cattle at fairs during last month were larger than in April, but much smaller than in the corresponding month of 1935. Despite the fact that many of the stores were lacking in condition, trade was brisk in nearly all sections and prices showed a further general advance. Calves and young stores were in keen demand by local graziers, whilst shippers bid actively for well-conditioned medium and large stores. Fat cattle were in smaller number and trade ruled steady. Prices were a shade dearer on the month. The supply of dairy cattle was little altered and business moved on lines similar to last month. Good young heifers were in request for export and best quality cows also sold readily at firmer rates, especially towards the end of May. For other descriptions business was quiet and prices unchanged. There were seasonally increased supplies of sheep and lambs at fairs and the principal business was done in fat lambs which were in good local request at firm rates. Fat sheep also sold fairly well at about late rates but for other sorts trade was dull. An increased supply of young pigs experienced a good steady trade throughout May and prices were firmer on the month at 31½ per head.

This report will be sent free monthly as issued on application being made to the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Stormont, Belfast.

10th June, 1936.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

List of Leaflets and other Publications.

LEAFLETS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>No. 1. Flax Seed, 1936.
 " 2. Improvement of Farm Poultry.
 " 3. Feeding for Egg Production.
 " 4. Marketing of Eggs.
 " 5. The Dishorning of Calves.
 " 6. The Packing of Apples in Standard Boxes.
 " 7. Potato Trials.
 " 8. Seed Testing for Farmers.
 " 9. The Renovation of Orchards.
 " 10. Fruit Tree Pests—Capsid Bugs.
 " 11. Fruit Tree Pests—Aphides and Apple Sucker.
 " 12. Fruit Tree Pests—Caterpillars.
 " 13. Contagious Abortion in Cattle.
 " 14. Cheese-making on the Farm.
 " 15. Suitable Varieties of Fruit.
 " 16. The Feeding of Dairy Cows.
 " 17. Home Bottling of Fruits and Vegetables.
 " 18. Marketing of Dead Poultry.
 " 19. How to Feed Linseed.
 " 20. The Hatching and Rearing of Chickens.
 " 21. The Uses and Advantages of Portable Poultry Houses.
 " 22. Leather-Jacket Grubs.
 " 23. The Handling and Care of Wool.
 " 24. Fluke in Sheep.
 " 25. The Rearing and Management of Young Horses.
 " 26. Ordnance Survey Maps for Farmers.
 " 27. How to Keep Eggs Clean.
 " 28. The Construction of a Laying House for Poultry.
 " 29. The Selection and Breeding of Laying Hens
 " 30. Coccidiosis in Poultry.
 " 31. Roup of Poultry (Fowl Pox).
 " 32. Spraying Calendar for Apple Orchards.
 " 33. The Pruning of Apple Trees.
 " 34. The Fattening of Pigs.
 " 35. Advantages of Milk Recording.
 " 36. The Raising and Fattening of Turkeys.
 " 37. The Destruction of Charlock.
 " 38. The Production of Clean Milk.
 " 39. The Laying Down and Management of Temporary Pastures.
 " 40. Blackleg, Blackquarter or Quarterill.
 " 41. The Purchase of Balanced Rations for Dairy Cows.
 " 42. Tuberculosis in Poultry.</p> | <p>No. 44. Results of Crop Experiments, 1935.
 " 45. The Breeding and Rearing of Pigs.
 " 46. Hints for Winter Egg Production.
 " 47. The Care and Management of Sheep.
 " 48. Baby Beef Production.
 " 49. American Gooseberry Mildew.
 " 50. Potato Blight.
 " 51. Butter-making on the Farm.
 " 52. Gapes in Chickens.
 " 53. The Breeding and Rearing of Calves.
 " 54. Destruction of Ragwort or Benweed.
 " 55. Identification of Egg Supplies.
 " 56. How to have Eggs of First Quality.
 " 57. How the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuff Act benefits the Farmer.
 " 58. Bacillary White Diarrhoea (Pullorum Disease).
 " 59. Advantages of Winter Agricultural Classes.
 " 60. The Care and Management of Breeding Bulls.
 " 61. The Production of Timber on the Farm.
 " 62. Sheep—Castration, Docking, Foot-Rot and Care of Feet.
 " 63. The Destruction of Warble Fly Maggots in Cattle.
 " 64. The Packing of Apples in Barrels.
 " 65. Seed Testing Facilities for Traders.
 " 66. The Cultivation of Vegetables.
 " 67. The Cultivation of Strawberries.
 " 68. The Construction of Piggeries.
 " 69. Ringworm.
 " 70. The Cultivation of Raspberries.
 " 71. Tree Planting for Shelter and Ornament.
 " 72. The Propagation and Maintenance of Healthy Stocks of Potatoes.
 " 73. New Pure Strains of Flax.
 " 74. Pig Production and the Pigs Marketing Scheme.
 " 75. Acarine (Isle of Wight) Disease of Bees.
 " 76. Licensing of Milk Producers and Distributors.
 " 77. Graded Milk.
 " 78. The Picking and Storing of Apples.
 " 79. Hoose or Husk in Farm Stock.
 " 80. The Construction of Cow Houses.
 " 81. White Scour in Calves.
 " 82. The Care, Management and Feeding of the Poultry Breeding Stock.</p> |
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Any of the above leaflets may be obtained free of charge and post free on application to the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Stormont, Belfast.

CIRCULARS.

- No. 1. Phosphatic Fertilisers.
 " 5. Why Pay a Tax on the Horns of Cattle?
 " 8. Basic Slag.
 " 9. Smut in Oats.
 " 10. Purchase of Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs.
 " 11. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act—General Summary.
 " 12. The treatment of Liver Fluke.
 " 13. The Ox-Warble Fly.
 " 306. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926—Revision of Regulations.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS.

Store Cattle.
 Reports on Egg-Laying Tests.
 Crop Insurance.
 List of Growers of Certified Crops of Immune Varieties of Potatoes.
 List of Growers of Certified Crops of Non-Immune Varieties of Potatoes.
 The Ministry's Monthly Report.
 Register of Premium Stallions.
 Guide to the Live Stock Breeding Act (Northern Ireland), 1922.
 Guide to the Marketing of Fruit Act (Northern Ireland), 1932.

Any of the above publications may be obtained free of charge and post free on application to the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Stormont, Belfast.

The following publications can be obtained from His Majesty's Stationery Office, 80 Chichester Street, Belfast, at the prices stated:—

- (1) The Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland. Price 2/6 net.
- (2) Annual Report upon the Agricultural Statistics of Northern Ireland. Price 2/- net.
- (3) The Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland. Price 2/6 net.
- (4) The Agricultural Output of Northern Ireland, 1925. Price 2/6 net.